

Application No.: 09/937,628

Docket No.: 21900-00039-US

REMARKS

The Office Action and prior art relied upon have been carefully considered and responded to below.

The deficiencies of the Abstract have been addressed in the accompanying substitute Abstract.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okagaki et al. in view of Hatcher further in view of Nagashima et al. Claim 3 is similarly rejected with additional reliance on the reference to Thibeault. Although the Examiner construes the faceplate of radio 15 disclosed in Okagaki et al. as an emergency communication conveying means, it is to be noted that the function of the radio or its faceplate of Okagaki et al. is totally different from that of the emergency communication conveying means 2. Although the radio 15 functions as a communication unit, this is for the communication with a personal computer 8 positioned in the vicinity of the radio 15 as shown in Fig. 1 and is not for the communication with a predetermined partner for transmitting emergency information. Okagaki et al. does not disclose that the radio 15 transmits emergency information.

not a communication means

On the contrary, in the present invention, the emergency communication conveying means 2, which may be a handy phone as claimed in claim 2, is used to transmit emergency information to a predetermined partner, which may be a center for controlling emergency communication system, as disclosed on page 33 lines 3 to 8 of the specification. According to the present invention, when the emergency communication conveying means 2 is detached from the terminal 1, and the disconnection is detected, then the advancing movement of the vehicle is prohibited. On the other hand, in Okagaki et al., when the faceplate of the radio 15 is detached, no automatic control is performed except that a theft-discouraging effect is performed. This theft-discouraging effect results from only the psychological effect on a person who intends to steal the radio. In other words, the detaching of the faceplate is not detected and the detaching of the faceplate does not result in any change in status or electrical signal condition.

(2) additional

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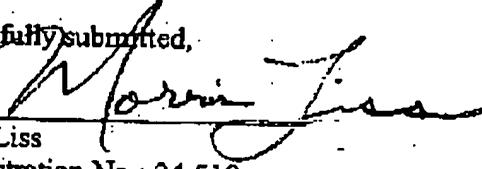
For this reason even if the disclosure of Okagaki is combined with other references, the present invention is not achieved. Thus, it is believed that the present invention defined by claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art. Reconsideration and an early allowance are respectfully solicited.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21900-00039-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: May 4, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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